



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

## GUIDANCE FOR THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF MEDICAL OXYGEN FOR PERSONAL USE ON BUSES AND TRAINS

The Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) recommends that bus and train operators take the following precautions to assure that medical oxygen being transported for passengers' personal use is handled and transported safely:

### **FOR TRANSPORTATION IN THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT**

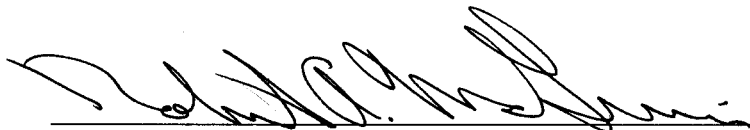
- Oxygen should be transported on a bus or train only when medically necessary.
- Oxygen should be transported in a cylinder maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The manufacturer's instructions and precautions are usually printed on a label attached to the cylinder.
- Before boarding, inspect each cylinder to assure that it is free of cracks or leaks, including around the valve area and pressure relief device. Listen for leaks; do not load leaking cylinders on the bus or train. Visually inspect the cylinders for dents, gouges or pits. A cylinder that is dented, gouged, or pitted should not be transported.
- Limit the number of cylinders to be transported on board the vehicle to the extent practicable. If possible, transportation in the passenger compartment should be limited to one cylinder per person.
- Cylinders used for medical oxygen are susceptible to valve damage if dropped. Handle these cylinders with care during loading and unloading operations. Never drag or roll a cylinder. Never carry a cylinder by the valve or regulator. Carry the cylinder carefully using both hands.
- Do not handle oxygen cylinders or apparatus with hands or gloves contaminated with oil or grease.

- Each cylinder should be secured to prevent movement and leakage. Each cylinder should be loaded and secured in an upright position. "Secured" means that the cylinder is not free to move when the vehicle or train is in motion.
- Oxygen cylinders or other medical support equipment should never be stored or secured in the aisle. Make sure that the seating of the passenger requiring oxygen does not restrict access to exits or use of the aisle.
- Since the release of oxygen from a cylinder could accelerate a fire, each cylinder should be secured away from sources of heat or potential sparks.
- Under no circumstances should smoking or open flames (cigarette lighter or matches) be permitted in the passenger compartment when medical oxygen is present.
- When you reach your destination, immediately remove all cylinders from the bus or train.

#### **FOR TRANSPORTATION IN THE CARGO COMPARTMENT**

- Each cylinder should be placed in a box or crate or loaded and transported in an upright position.
- Valves should be protected against damage.
- Each cylinder should be secured against movement.
- The total weight for oxygen cylinders permitted in a bus cargo compartment is 99 lbs (45 kg).

For further information, contact PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Information Center at 1-800-467-4922.



Robert A. McGuire  
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